

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 IGA-02

ACDA-10 IO-13 /100 W

-----291833Z 029365 /47

R 291440Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5379

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GUATEMALA 1930

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, GT

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CONTINUING GUATEMALAN REACTION

REF: GUATEMALA (A) 0703, (B) 1579, (C) 1736, (D) 1658

1. SUMMARY. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE GUATEMALA ANNOUNCED ITS REJECTION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TWO EDITORS HAVE STRONGLY COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SIGNED EDITORIAL IN MARCH 24 EDITION OF LIBERAL OPPOSITION DAILY EL GRAFICO, EDITOR JORGE CARPIO NICOLLE WRITES, "PARADOXICAL BUT TRUE, THE CAMPAIGN OF PRESIDENT CARTER ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS FOUND THE SAME ECHO IN THE SOVIET UNION AND IN SOME LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. THE RADICAL ANTAGONISM THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN THE GIANT OF "SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM" AND THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA HAS SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED. THE EXTREMES HAVE DRAWN CLOSER, ON SEEING THEMSELVES WOUNDED IN THE SAME SITUATION AND

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BY THE SAME INSTRUMENT, I.E., THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WORLD CAMPAIGN WHICH WASHINGTON IS LEADING UNDER THE NEW SIGN OF THE CARTER POLICY. THE RESPONSE IS THE SAME IN MOSCOW, BUENOS AIRES, BRAZILIA OR SANTIAGO: INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CONDEMNATION OF THIS TYPE OF INTERVENTIONISM, BE IT BY WORD OR BY DEED. EVEN CENTRAL AMERICA, THE DEVOTED ADMIRER OF OUR

BROTHER COUNTRY TO THE NORTH, HAS CONDEMNED THE FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. THE SITUATION IS THEREFORE LIKE THIS: IF THE ACCUSATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WERE WRITTEN ONLY ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION, THEN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WOULD APPLAUD, BUT SINCE THE ATTACK ON THE SOVIET UNION, BY PUBLICIZING THE PERSECUTION OF DISSIDENTS, ALSO AFFECTS SOME COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA, THEN IMMEDIATELY APPEARS THE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND CONDEMNATION OF INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EACH STATE. THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE VIOLATIONS OF THESE RIGHTS OF MAN OCCUR PLACE THEMSELVES ON ONE SIDE: THOSE THAT RESPECT THESE RIGHTS ARE LOCATED ON ANOTHER SIDE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT IDEOLOGY THEY MAY PROFESS OR WHAT CRITICAL CONDITIONS MAY CAUSE THE VIOLATION OR RESPECT OF THESE RIGHTS. THE DENUNCIATIONS AND THE THREATS OF WASHINGTON ARE AN INSTRUMENT OF PRESSURE TO COMBAT COMMUNISM AND WEAKEN IT INTERNALLY. AT THE SAME TIME THEY SERVE TO PULL BACK COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DEVIATED TOWARD DICTATORSHIP TO THE PRINCIPLES AND DEMOCRATIC IDEALS WHICH THEY SUPPORTED AND RESPECTED BEFORE. THE ATTACK GOES DIRECTLY AGAINST THE REPRESSIVE POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT, IMPLEMENTED INSTITUTIONALLY.

3. "OUR CASE IS NOT THE SAME AT THE PRESENT TIME. GUATEMALA HAS ALREADY PASSED THROUGH THAT TERRIBLE TEST OF FIRE. THE REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH IS BEING DISCUSSED IN THE US SENATE SAYS SO. IT MENTIONS THAT DURING THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT LAUGERUD POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAS DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AND THAT THE POLICY

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OF THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN TO CONCERN HIMSELF TO END THE INTERNAL FIGHTING.

4. "IN THE UNITED NATIONS MEANWHILE THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN PROPOSED. IN FACT IN THE AGREEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WRITTEN IN 1966 IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IT CALLS FOR THE CREATION OF THAT COMMISSIONER. BUT THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES FOR OBVIOUS REASONS HAVE NOT RATIFIED THOSE AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING GUATEMALA. WE ARE IN A MOMENT OF TRANSITION IN OUR COUNTRY - EITHER WE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY OR WE MARCH TOWARD DICTATORSHIP. THE CAMPAIGN OF MR. CARTER SHOULD MAKE US THINK ABOUT THIS. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS ALREADY SHED CONSIDERABLE BLOOD, THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO REHUMANIZE OURSELVES AND DEMOCRATIZE OURSELVES AT WHATEVER COST. AND THIS IS NOT A ROMANTIC POSITION BUT A REALISTIC ONE."

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R 291440Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5380
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5. COMMENT: EDITORIAL POLICY OF EL GRAFICO HAS NOT BEEN CONSISTENT. IN TWO SIGNED EDITORIALS (REFTELS A AND B) BEFORE GUATEMALA RELEASED TEXT OF ITS NOTE RENOUNCING US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CARPIO FAVORED A STRONG US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. HOWEVER, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING GUATEMALA'S REJECTION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN CARPIO'S CONCILIATORY GESTURE TO "GOD AND COUNTRY", HE CRITICIZED US FOR INTERVENTIONISM, BUT IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL (REFTEL C). NOW, HOWEVER, THE GESTURE MADE, CARPIO APPEARS TO HAVE REAFFIRMED GRAFICO'S STRONG HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION. END COMMENT.

6. IN SMALL MORNING DAILY IMPACTO EDITOR OSCAR MARROQUIN, WRITING UNDER A PSEUDONYM, LAVISHLY PRAISES US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, THEREBY TAKING A DIAMETRICALLY DIFFERENT POSITION FROM THAT OF HIS FATHER (REFTEL D). HE WRITES, "NOW THAT THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO RETURN TO THE FOOTPATHS OF DEMOCRACY WHICH IT HAS ALWAYS FOLLOWED, BUT HAS NEVER TRIED TO IMPLEMENT IN THOSE
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COUNTRIES WHICH 'GEOPOLITICALLY' ARE UNDER ITS SPHERE

OF INFLUENCE, NOW ALL THE LOVERS OF DEPOTISM, OF FASCISM AND OF ORGANIZED VIOLENCE CRITICIZE MR. CARTER ONLY FOR THE CRIME OF FIGHTING FOR THE ERADICATION OF ASSASSINATIONS AND IMPRISONMENT AND OF THE PHYSICAL DISAPPEARANCE OF MEN WHO ARE FIGHTING TO BE FREE. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE NUMBER ONE CITIZEN OF THE POWER OF THE WEST RECOGNIZES THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENTAL VIOLENCE IN THOSE COUNTRIES THAT MOVE WITHIN THE ORBIT OF ITS POWER. AND NOW ALL THE PRODUCTS OF THAT POLICY, PRODUCTS OF PREVIOUS YANKEE ADMINISTRATIONS THAT DID INTERFERE IN THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THESE NATIONS, PROTEST AGAINST THIS CITIZEN WHO HAS TOLD THEM HIS POLICY STRAIGHT TO THEIR FACES.

7. "AND WHEN WE SEE POSITIONS LIKE THAT OF MR. CARTER WE SEE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND NOW ITS GOVERNMENTS ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF DEMOCRACY FOR WHICH HUMANITY HAS FOUGHT FOR CENTURIES. IT IS A SAD ROLE THAT THESE MEN ARE PLAYING THAT NOW CRITICIZE THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONES WHO HAVE APPLAUDED THE DIRECT INTERFERENCE AT OTHER TIMES OF THE IMPERIAL FORCES OF THE GREAT AMERICAN NATION. WE WILL ALWAYS BE WITH THOSE CITIZENS THAT FIGHT FOR THE RESPECT OF THE DIGNITY OF MAN, FOR HIS LIBERTY, FOR HIS DIGNITY. BECAUSE OF THIS WE APPLAUD THE POSITION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MR. CARTER."
BOSTER

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